

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00963 100718Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W  
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R 100525Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2364  
USDOC WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS MUSCAT 0963

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP ECRE SENV MU

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 1977 WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIZED TRADE MISSION

REF: BAGHDAD 1080

1. WHILE OMAN'S POPULATION IS SMALL AND ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS FAR BEHIND IRAQ OR SAUDI ARABIA, WE BELIEVE THAT A WATER RESOURCES TRADE MISSION COULD ACHIEVE FRUITFUL RESULTS HERE. DEVELOPMENT OF LARGELY UNEXPLORED WATER RESOURCES IN INTERIOR ARE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT, AS OMAN GOVERNMENT AIMS FOR SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION DURING NEXT 5 YEARS AND HAS EARMARKED \$200 MILLION FOR THIS PURPOSE. WATER EXPLORATION, RILLING, AND DISTRIBUTION TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE FIRST EMPHASIS OF MISSION HERE.

2. URBAN WATER RESOURCES WOULD BE ANOTHER USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. FIRMS. RAPID GROWTH OF CAPITAL AREA IS OUTSTRIPPING AVAILABLE FRESH WATER, AND MISSION ORGANIZERS SHOULD ALSO EMPHASIZE DRINKING WATER AND SEWAGE SYSTEMS AND SMALL TO MEDIUM DESALINIZATION PLANTS. DESALINIZATION PRESENTS ESPECIALLY INTERESTING MARKET: LARGE DESALTING PLANT FOR CAPITAL AREA HAS

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BEGUN LIMITED OPERATION THIS YEAR, AND

SEVERAL ADDITIONAL  
DESALTING FACILITIES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

3. WHILE OMAN'S ECONOMY IS NOT ON SAME SCALE AS OTHER COUNTRIES  
TO BE VISITED, WE FEEL THAT DEVELOPMENT OF WATER SUPPLY FOR

AGRICULTURE AND URBAN POPULATION IS OF HIGH ENOUGH PRIORITY  
TO MAKE TRADE MISSION WORTHWHILE. IF USDOC IS UNABLE TO SEND  
FULL TRADE MISSION HERE, WE WOULD STILL WELCOME SOME COMPANY  
REPRESENTATIVES IN FEBRUARY 1977 TO GIVE PRESENTATION TO  
APPROPRIATE OMANGOV MINISTRIES AND LOCAL COMMERCIAL REPS AND  
CONTRACTORS.

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